

Catawba County Children's Agenda May, 2011

*Ensuring a safe community where all
children are engaged, enriched, and
equipped to reach their full potential*

The Children's Agenda

- Community wide strategic planning
- Focus on overarching children's issues
- Voice for children
- Committee appointed February, 2009
by BOC



Planning Committee Representation

- Partnership for Children
- Centro Latino
- Mental Health Partners
- NAACP
- Public Health
- Juvenile Crime
Prevention Council
- Social Services
- Champions of Education
- Hickory Public Schools
- Newton-Conover Schools
- Catawba County schools
- United Hmong Association
- County Manager's office
- Business Community



Vision & Mission



- Ensuring a safe community where all children are engaged, enriched, and equipped to reach their full potential
 - Review state of children in Catawba County
 - Identify overarching goals – based on community wide input
 - Identify areas of improved effectiveness and efficiency in services



Principles of Work

- Inclusive process – geographically and demographically
- Represents community concerns
- Catalyst for discussion and action throughout the community



Planning Process

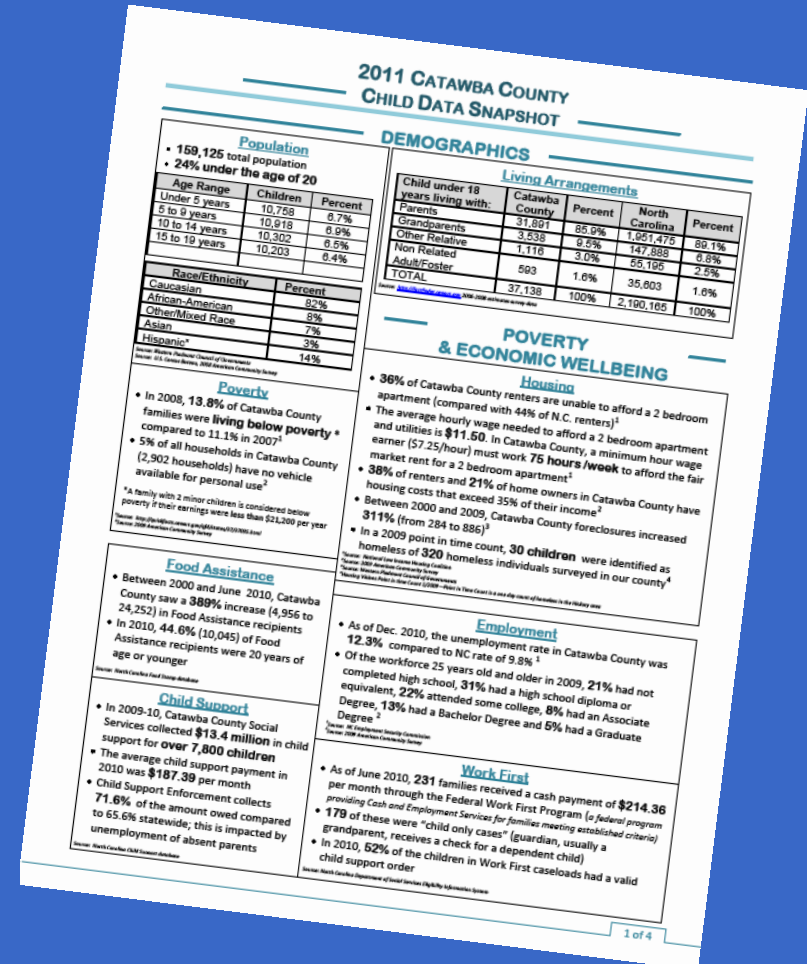


- Data Review
- 400 Survey/Focus Group Respondents (high school/parent of preschoolers)
- 2 Children's Summits
- 367 Community Survey Respondents
- Information Synthesis
- Agenda Development



2011 Child Data Snapshot

- Specific to Catawba County
- Comprehensive topics
- Comparisons to state averages, where possible
- Citations given for all statistics



Snapshot Highlights

- **13%** of children under age 18 **live with a grandparent or other relative**
- **14%** of families were living **below poverty** in 2009
- **47%** of CCS students and **60%** of HPS and NCCS students are on **free and reduced lunch**
- **13.7%** of children **did not** have health insurance in 2008



Snapshot Highlights

- In 2009, **32.6%** of pregnancies to 15-19 year olds were **repeat pregnancies** and 32% of all reported STD cases were to teenagers ages 13-19
- **39%** (4,175) of children ages 0-5 attend a childcare facility **compared to 53%** in 2009 (5,353)
- **1,804 reports of abuse or neglect** were accepted in 09/10 compared with 1700 reports in the first 3 quarters of 10/11



The Children's Agenda

- Family Functioning & Self Sufficiency
- Education
- Physical Health

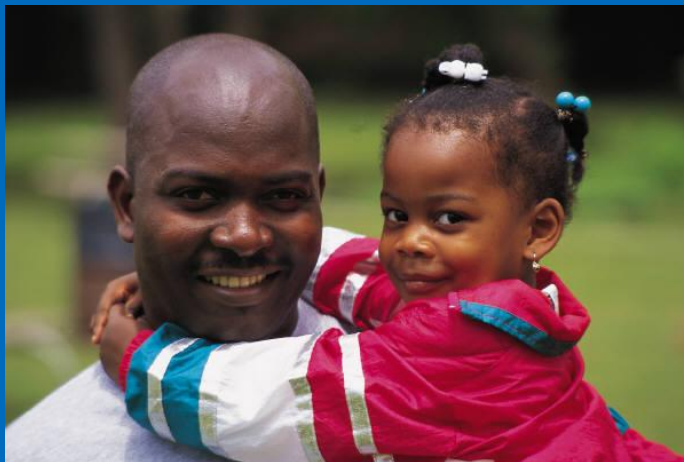


- Social/Emotional Health
- Safe Environment
- Social Support



Family Functioning

1. Impact of poverty
2. Parenting skills
3. Adequate supervision



Education



1. Pre-kindergarten experiences
2. Reading by third grade
3. School completion
4. Parent engagement
5. Community service hubs



Physical Health

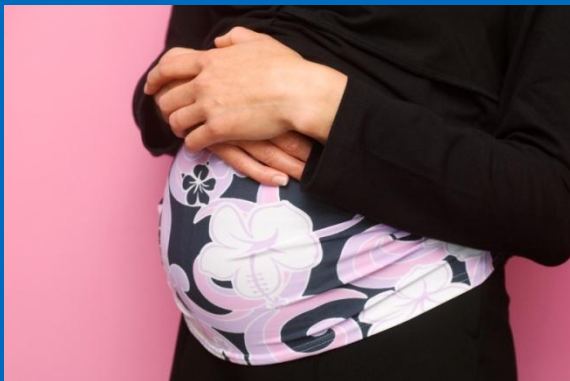


1. Primary medical and dental homes
2. Preventive screenings and treatment
3. Childhood obesity



Emotional/Mental Health

1. Mental health and developmental disability services
2. Substance abuse treatment and support services
3. Teen pregnancy prevention



Safe Environment

1. Child abuse and neglect prevention and reporting
2. Safe driving practices
3. Safety in residential neighborhoods



Social Support

1. Volunteerism
2. Respect for diversity and appreciation of civil behavior
3. Connected to and supported within community



Planning Committee Next Steps



- Develop a plan for moving the work forward
- Update *Child Data Snapshot* annually
- Develop a *Children's Budget* to highlight public spending on services impacting children



Request/Action

- Support the idea of a community vision for children in Catawba County, and pledge to
 - Continue efforts to be part of a community effort on behalf of children
 - Provide for annual update of *Child Data Snapshot*
 - Develop a *Children's Budget*





Catawba County Children's Agenda

THANK YOU!

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